

Please amend the Abstract on page 12 as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

~~Integrated variable optical attenuator and isolator, components therefor and method of assembly~~

An integrated variable optical attenuator and isolator assembly includes:

a variable optical attenuator including a polarisation rotation medium (504),

an optical isolator including an optical rotator (208), and

a polariser (506) interposed between the polarisation rotation medium (504) and the optical rotator (208), whereby said polariser (506) is common to both the variable optical attenuator and the optical isolator.

(Figure 6)